



***McGhee Tyson ANG Base, TN
Family Program Newsletter
January 2009***



The McGhee Tyson
Family Readiness Group
(FRG) represents the
134th ARW, 119th CCS,
228th CBCS, 572nd AF
Band
and the
Training and Education
Center (TEC).

During the Dec 08 UTA, base youth participated in our first American Red Cross sponsored “Baby Sitting Training Class”. Instructors taught participants (ages 11 to 14) how to develop leadership skills; learn how to develop a babysitting business, keep themselves and others safe; help children behave; and learn about basic child care and basic first aid.



“Family Readiness Angel Tree”

Base personnel and their families again showed their volunteer spirit by participating in our annual “Angel Tree” event sponsored by the McGhee Tyson Family Program Office. Dining hall personnel decorated the tree with ornaments and Angels. (Names were provided by the Blount County Dept of Children’s Services). There has been tremendous interest and participation by base personnel since we began this project approximately 10 years ago. This year, 130 children’s names were on the tree and they all received one or more gifts. Thanks to all those who participated, Christmas morning was a little bit brighter for these children.





SSgt Chris Berney performs magic tricks while volunteers Lindsey Watson-Kerwin, Cheryl Grugin, and Anita Latham cared for children during the TEC's annual Christmas party. Family Readiness Group members provided childcare at the base activities building while TEC staff members enjoyed dinner and fellowship at the Armed Forces Club.

Your FRG Wants and Needs You

There is always an open invitation to join our Family Readiness Group. All Spouses, Parents, Teenagers, Military Members, Retirees, Significant Others, and even Concerned Citizens are eligible for membership.

Traditionally, FRG membership increases during time of deployment and then decreases when conditions return to "normal". Deployments and the problems of deployment will continue. The FRG is here to help. We exist to ensure that our families have the information, support and friendship required to allow our Guard members to complete their mission. Show your support for this mission by participating in the McGhee Tyson Family Program.

Some of our activities include: Welcoming new families to the unit; contacting deployed member's families; sending "Care Packages" to deployed members; sending cards/flowers and making hospital visits; conducting periodic training classes for family members; and coordinating Spouse Orientation Flights. Seasonal activities include our Angel Tree event; Children's Christmas party; Easter Egg hunt ; Children's Fall Festival and the Tennessee National Guard Youth Development Week (Kid's Camp).

You will also have the opportunity to attend local, state and national Family Readiness workshops and conferences. Network and develop friendships with other volunteers who also want to assist military families.

Also, there is no minimum time you have to commit. You can participate as much as your schedule permits.

We welcome your help, ideas and involvement. For more information, please contact Steve Latham, Wing Family Program Coordinator, at (865) 985-3107



"Children's Christmas Party"

Santa led the singing while kids put together "Care Packages" & made Christmas Cards for our deployed base personnel!



Vacation & Recreation Opportunities

Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks-

Sitting in the "splash zone" of a killer whale or talking turkey with a big yellow bird are just two activities troops and their families can enjoy for free at Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks. Visit the [Here's to the Heroes Web site](#) to find more details and locate a park.

Disney-

With the "Disney's Armed Forces Salute" offer, active and retired U.S. military personnel, including active and retired members of the United States Coast Guard and activated members of the National Guard or Reservists, can enjoy complimentary, multi-day admission into Disney's U.S. theme parks, great rates at select Walt Disney World Resort and Disneyland Resort hotels, and additional special ticket offers for family members and friends.

<http://www.wdwinfo.com/discounts/discounts-military.htm>

Military OneSource Tax Services

Military OneSource offers free tax consultations and free e-filing for active duty, Guard, Reserve and their family members. **You must be logged in to access this service. Go to www.militaryonesource.com**

You can also call a tax consultant at **1-800-730-3802** (7a.m.-11p.m. EDT) or [e-mail a consultant](#) to help you with your personal tax-related questions.

GM Military Discount

GM is offering military pricing on GM vehicles through the GM Military Discount Program. This discount is being offered to eligible military members through all participating GM dealers.

Visit gmmilitarydiscount.com for more information.

